

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

DODE-00 /062 W

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R 032120Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9960

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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DEPT ALSO PASS ARA REGIONAL LABOR ADVISER JOHN O'GRADY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN LABOR EFFORT TO MEET WITH CARTER

REF: PANAMA 7863

1. SECRETARY-GENERAL BUTCHER OF CTRP INFORMED US THAT ON NOVEMBER 30 HE SPOKE WITH MICHAEL BOGGS OF AFL-CIO REGARDING HIS REQUEST TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN A GROUP OF PANAMANIAN FREE-LABOR LEADERS AND PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER OR ONE OF HIS ADVISERS.

2. BOGGS TOLD BUTCHER THAT AFL-CIO HAD RAISED MATTER WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT'S STAFF BUT HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THERE WAS NO ONE AS YET WITH WHOM A GROUP SUCH AS THIS COULD MEANINGFULLY MEET OR DISCUSS THE CANAL ISSUE. BOGGS SUGGESTED THAT BUTCHER WAIT UNTIL AFTER INAUGURATION, THEN RAISE MATTER AGAIN BY LETTER THROUGH AFL-CIO, WHICH WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD DO TO ASSIST AT THAT TIME.

3. BUTCHER WAS NOT OVERLY SURPRISED BY THIS RESPONSE,

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BUT IS SOMEWHAT DISHEARTENED IN THAT DAVIDSON HAS ALREADY

BEGUN SUGGESTING WITHIN CTRP THAT BUTCHER SIMPLY FAILED TO TRY HARD ENOUGH. COMMENT: CTRP BIENNIAL CONGRESS, WHICH WILL ELECT A SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, IS COMING UP. THEREFORE, WE ARE NOT SURPRISED AT DAVIDSON'S REPORTED REACTION. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMBLINGS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE CONFEDERATION AS WELL, AND IT APPEARS POSSIBLE THAT IF BUTCHER DECIDES TO STAND FOR REELECTION TO A THIRD TERM, HE MAY FACE MORE OPPOSITION THAT WAS THE CASE AT THE LAST CONGRESS IN 1975. END COMMENT.

4. REQUEST THAT FOREGOING BE PASSED ALSO TO CHARLES WHEELER, AIFLD/WASHINGTON, FOR AIFLD PANAMA COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR MOORE, WHO IS ATTENDING AIFLD CPD MEETING AT THIS TIME.
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